

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A modular printing system comprising:
 - a first printer having a first printer media path;
 - a second printer having a second printer media path;
 - a connector system adapted to interchangeably couple the first printer to the second printer, and align the first media path with the second media path to allow print media to pass between the first printer and second printer.
2. The system of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a first printer housing;
 - a second printer housing, wherein the connector system is integrated into the first printer housing and the second printer housing.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the connector system aligns a print media path between the first printer and the second printer to allow print media to pass from the first printer to the second printer without user intervention.
4. The system of claim 2, wherein the connector system comprises a first connector cell integrated into a side of the first printer and a second connector cell integrated into a side of the second printer, the first and second connector cells adapted to connect the first printer to the second printer by connecting the first connector cell to the second connector cell.
5. The system of claim 4, wherein the first connector cell is a male connector and the second connector cell is a female connector.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein the first printer and the second printer each include a controller, and wherein the controllers are configured for communicating between the first printer and the second printer.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the controllers are further configured to negotiate a master/slave relationship between the first printer and the second printer.
8. A printing system, comprising:
 - a first printer;
 - a second printer; and
 - a print media path configured to transfer of print media from the first printer to the second printer without user intervention.
9. The system of claim 8, wherein the print media path comprises a plurality of print media inputs.
10. The system of claim 8, wherein the print media path comprises a plurality of print media outputs.
11. The system of claim 8, wherein the first printer and the second printer each include a print media input and a print media output.
12. The system of claim 11, wherein the print media output of the first printer is adapted to provide print media to the print media input of the second printer without user invention.
13. A method for processing a print job via a printing system, the method comprising:
 - receiving a print job via a first printer;
 - apportioning the print job into a first portion and a second portion;
 - processing the first portion of the print job on the first printer;
 - automatically transferring the print job to a second printer if the first printer is unable to complete the print job; and
 - processing the second portion of the print job on the second printer to complete the print job.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
designating the first printer as a master printer; and
designating the second printer as a slave printer.
15. The method of claim 14, further comprising;
receiving the print job via the second printer; and
transferring the print job to the first printer.
16. The method of claim 14, wherein designating the first printer as the master printer comprises negotiating a master/slave relationship between the first printer and the second printer.
17. The method of claim 16, wherein negotiating the master/slave relationship between the first printer and the second printer comprises comparing printer resources.
18. The method of claim 13, wherein apportioning the print job comprises determining if the first printer can complete the print job.
19. The method of claim 13, wherein apportioning the print job into the first portion and the second portion comprises load balancing the print job among available printer resources.
20. The method of claim 13, wherein automatically transferring the print job to the second printer comprises automatically transferring print media on which the first portion was processed to the second printer.
21. The method of claim 20, wherein automatically transferring the print media from the first printer to the second printer comprises defining a print media path between the first printer and the second printer.

22. A method for configuring a modular printing system, the method comprising:

- providing a first printer;
- providing a second printer;
- connecting the first printer to the second printer to provide a communication link between the first and the second printers and to provide a print media path between the first and second printers;
- determining through the communication link which one of the first and second printers will be a master printer; and
- designating the first and second printers as one of the master and a slave based upon the determination.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein determining through the communication link which one of the first and second printers will be a master printer comprises:

- calculating a first value representing a summation of the first printer's attributes for acting as the master;
- calculating a second value representing a summation of the second printer's attributes for acting as the master; and
- comparing the first value to the second value.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the first and second printer's attributes comprise at least one of controller type, memory type, available I/O, and additional circuits.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein if the first value is equal to the second value, determining through the communication link which one of the first and second printers will be a master printer further comprises:

- generating a first random number for the first printer;
- generating a second random number for the second printer; and
- comparing the first random number to the second random number.

26. The method of claim 22, wherein the first printer is one of an input module, printer, and finishing module.
27. The method of claim 22, wherein the first printer is a printer and the second printer is one of an input module and finishing module, the method further comprising:
 - designating the first printer as the master; and
 - designating the second printer as the slave.
28. The method of claim 22, further comprising:
 - sending a printer capability listing from the printer designated the slave to the printer designated the master.
29. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for processing a print job via a printing system, the medium comprising:
 - receiving a print job via a first printer;
 - apportioning the print job into a first portion and a second portion;
 - processing the first portion of the print job on the first printer;
 - automatically transferring the print job to a second printer if the first printer is unable to complete the print job; and
 - processing the second portion of the print job on the second printer to complete the print job.